GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:441
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2001
REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN NATIONALS WITH FRRO
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of an estimated 22,000 Afghan nationals in the country only 10,000 are presently registered with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office;

(b) if so, the reasons for not registering all the Afghan nationals by FRRO;

(c) the number of Afghan nationals staying with valid/invalid documents in the country;

(d) whether the Government have not conducted verification earlier, particularly when a large number of terrorists operating in J&K, allegedly belong to Afghanistan;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore;

(f) whether the US preparation for war against Afghanistan has led for more Afghans entering into India; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to see that all the Afghan and other foreign nationals are registered with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a): Initially there were 18,862 Afghans registered with FRRO. There was requirement of renewal of their registration every `6` months which is now once in a year. Out of 18,862 Afghans only 7,244 have renewed their registration.

(b): For renewal of registration and extension of stay valid passport/travel documents were mandatory. The Afghan Embassy have reportedly enhanced the fee for renewal of passports exhorbitantly, due to which many Afghans were unable to renew their passports and consequently not renewed their registration/extension of stay with FRRO.

(c): The initial figures of Afghan nationals registered with FRRO was 18,862 and the number of Afghan nationals with UNHCR refugee certificate is 11,696.

(d) & (e): Incident of involvement of Afghan nationals, who have fled to India due to disturbed conditions in Afghanistan, in terrorist activities have not come to the notice of the Government. However, FRRO/FROs and other security agencies maintain a strict watch on the activities of the Afghan nationals.

(f) & (g): After declaration of war by US, lot of Afghans of Indian origin are reported to have entered Pakistan.They are granted visa after routine checks whenever their applications come through Indian High Commission, Islamabad.All Afghan nationals are required to get themselves registered within seven days of entering into India, and other foreign nationals within 15 days. To ensure registration of Afghans staying in India, they have been given opportunity to register even with invalid/expired travel documents till 31.12.2001. Registration of Afghans without travel documents is also being done after identification. Identification Certificates will be issued to all registered Afghans shortly.